

Iron County Register

BY ELI D. AKE.
BRANTON, MISSOURI.

LOYAL AT LAST.

A Tale of Love and Adventure in the Late Civil War.

BY BERNARD HOSBY.
AUTHOR OF "ELLEN'S SECRET," "FALLS AMONG THIEVES," "MY LADY FANTASTICAL," AND OTHER STORIES.

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CHAPTER I.
A WILFUL WOMAN.

HERE is no people on the earth more prone to lavish raptures on the beauties of other lands than the Americans. You, who have perched on the Rhine, have probably but little conception of the glory of the River St. Clair, as it rolls majestically by the eastern shore of Michigan, crystal clear, a mile wide, two hundred feet deep, an epic poem written in water by Nature's own hand.

At a bend in its course, half way between the two lakes it connects, stands a substantial farm-house surrounded by neat outbuildings and blossoming orchards. It is from the latter feature that it inherits its name—the Orchard House.

And in that pretty dwelling lives a family which has a history.

When you look at the little summer-house in the garden, which was evidently once the pilot-house of a steamer, and see the tall, tapering mast with the stars and stripes floating in the breeze, you are prepared to tell that it is the home of a sailor.

A very old, weather-beaten bulk is Daniel Winthrop, now, but in the year when my story opens, nearly three decades ago, he was a hale, well-preserved man of sixty, whose silver hair was the only external premonition of advancing age.

When the glad spring sun of 1861 was tinting the surface of his beloved river with every hue of the rainbow, who had a greater right to say: "The land has prospered, and my cup is full of joy," than Daniel Winthrop?

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Ere Kate's lips framed the reply she cast a little apologetic look at Mrs. Winthrop and Nell, for the consciousness was strong within her that the revelation would cost her their sympathy.

"Mr. Lecroix," she stammered, "has offered—that is I have heard him—in fact—"

"Winthrop broke in on her confusion. "Alphonse Lecroix!" he exclaimed, while a start of pained surprise showed his wife's and daughter's dismay.

"And why not?" Kate asked, with well-feigned calmness. "Why not Mr. Lecroix?"

The question was too much for the old lady, who rose abruptly and said, with as much of a sneer as he could assume, for the good-natured Captain was not strong in sarcasm.

"So be it, then. It is natural that birds of a feather should flock together; but I little thought, Miss Frohman, that I should ever be glad to—"

"To get rid of me!" Kate suggested, with apparently unstrained composure.

The Captain disdained reply and left the room, almost rudely ignoring the hand she held out to him. Had he noticed the drooping eyelid and quivering lip which suddenly betrayed her deep emotion he might, by a kind word, have opened the flood-gates of her emotion, but he was blind to every thing, and burned with a mad rage at the wrong she had done his boy Harry.

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blended chance of being popped off by one of Mosby's men at any moment."

"You'll have fighting enough before you are through, you young idiot," Harry said, sternly, but there was a kindly gleam in his eyes, for Gordon Grey had been one of his pupils, and when the lad had run away and enlisted he had promised his heart-broken mother that he would look after her boy.

"We've been so long doing nothing," the boy complained.

"What with Bull Run, and—"

Gordon Grey interrupted him with a bitter laugh.

"Ay, there was fun enough in running away. I wonder how your father swayed that nauseous dose, Harry?"

"Nell wrote me that he was pretty well over it; volunteered to shoulder a musket, and drove mother into fits of despair by his martial ardor, but luckily for the peace of the family his age was against him, and he still has to stop at home and take care of the women."

"While we play hide and seek on these wild mountains with Mosby's fellows. This is not war; it is—"

"Silence in the ranks! Halt!"

The command cut off the boy's complaint. In a moment each horse and man was as still as a statue.

The lad's querulousness was not altogether groundless; for, until Hooker's arrival, the cavalry had simply done duty in scouting and flanking. There had been a tedious chase of darts, of camped on Meridian Hill, a weary march through Alexandria to Culpeper, monotonous winter quarters and a sharp engagement at Brandy Station. Their main duty had been skirmishing and picketing, with occasional encounters with Mosby's irregulars, for this extraordinary man had already made himself famous as a guerrilla chief. Tales of his daring offshoots and his bold raids on campfires with many exaggerations by men who believed he bore a charmed life. It seemed impossible to lay hands on him. Hardly had the Federal troops recovered from the astonishment of a rash attack of the bold skirmisher and prepared to chastise him, than they heard of another equally daring feat of his six miles away.

Leaping from his horse, the Lieutenant beckoned Harry to follow him on foot to a cluster of trees from whose shelter they could command a view of the valley beneath them.

What a sight met their gaze. A score of Mosby's men were fastening long wires to the rails of the Manassas railroad, which they had detached from the sleepers. Their object was apparent, and Harry's indignation could be heard the lumbering sound of an approaching supply train, and, even as Harry looked, the Confederates had hidden in the neighboring bushes, wires in hand, ready for the derailing of the cars.

"Quick!" whispered Lieutenant Barclay. "Send a trooper back to the command; for if our fellows charge up the valley, they will bag the lot of them."

In a minute, at Harry's bidding, Gordon Grey was dashing at headlong speed over the broken path.

Meanwhile the heavy train crept nearer to the fatal ambush. No need for concealment now. Though the leader knew that the woods were full of foes, the gallant little band rode recklessly down into the valley, but ere they could reach the scene of the disaster the doomed engine was flung from the rails, and the enemy was swarming over the broken cars, so intent on the work of plunder that they hardly noticed the charge of the little troop of heroes, foremost of whom was Harry Winthrop.

It was an unequal contest, and could have had but one ending when, with a cheer, a squadron of cavalry came thundering to the rescue. Mosby's men, as usual, when outnumbered, fled to the woods with the Federal troopers hard on their heels. One man of them, who had been a leading spirit at the train-wrecking, separated himself from the rest and boldly rode down the valley, and baring his spurs in his horse's mane, he rode straight after him.

Both pursuer and pursued were well-mounted, and nearly two miles were passed without any perceptible lessening or increasing difference in their speed. Harry, who had separated them. Over and over again Harry could have brought the fleeing enemy down with his carbine, but he saw that the Confederates were round of ammunition and was defenseless but for his sword, and he chivalrously resolved to trust to his skill and strength to capture him on equal terms, and, fortunately, he was not far from the mark.

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TAXING THE NEEDY.

Some More Light Thrown on the Iniquities of the Allison Bill.

The more the Allison bill, now under consideration in the Senate, is examined, the plainer becomes its purpose to reduce the taxes of the rich and to increase the taxes of the poor.

Recently we showed by what device the tax on fine pen-knives was reduced from 50 per cent. to 36 per cent., while the tax on the cheap Congress knife would be increased from 50 per cent. to 93.

In guns the same rule has been applied. Section 177 reads as follows: "All double-barreled, sport and breech-loading shotguns, ten dollars each and 25 per cent. ad valorem."

Double-barreled shotguns costing \$5 abroad are to pay an import tax of \$11.25, or on twenty guns costing \$100 a tax of \$225.

But take a fine shotgun, such as the rich buy, costing \$100; the tax will be only \$25. Thus, twenty poor men buying shotguns valued at just what one rich man's gun is valued at, are taxed in the aggregate \$225, while the rich man is let off with a tax of \$25.

Why? Because at Syracuse, N. Y., are three firms making cheap shotguns, and they want to have a prohibitory tax put on that grade. As the Senate is now constituted exists only to record the edicts of the manufacturer, Allison draws the bill that is to draw the blood.

The same principle runs all through this infamous bill. The common things of life, the articles needed by the poor—building materials, household articles, fencing, farming implements—are taxed doubly, and the Allison bill is drawn for the purpose of reducing the revenues by increasing the rate of taxation.

Senator Vance illustrated the methods adopted when, in discussing the proposition to take macaroni from the existing free list and taxing it at the rate of two cents a pound, he said he had one day last summer peeped into the room of the Finance Committee, where he found a "chipper Dutchman" telling the sub-committee what he knew about macaroni, and who said he had been making macaroni in Cincinnati under the impression that there was a duty imposed upon it, and had been doing very well, but he "couldn't believe his eyes" when he read recently that it was on the free list. He wanted a duty on it of three cents per pound. Mr. Vance read some amusing extracts from the testimony of this witness.

One of the strong points made by Mr. Vance was the pleading of the witness that the duty would be a very small thing for the public, but that "it would be a big thing for us."

He commended this point in political economy to the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Hawley), as it sustained that Senator's argument the day before about salt.

It seems to the Republican members of Congress a little thing to tax the people one cent a head on salt, and two cents a head on cotton ties, and a cent a head on macaroni, and one dollar a head on pig iron, and fifty cents a head on steel rails, but in the aggregate the burden is something enormous, and, though the Republicans do not see the danger ahead, they are doing just the things which may precipitate in the next four years an industrial revolution which will destroy the whole system of legalized robbery, root and branch.

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